# SECTION V
# CONSERVATION EFFECTS

## Overview

**What Are Conservation Effects?**

Conservation effects are the positive and negative impacts (ecological, economic, and social) that result from applying individual conservation practices or conservation management systems to prevent or treat problems associated with soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

The process of estimating effects is part of the NRCS planning process. The conservation planner uses worksheets, examples, and measurement tools to evaluate the effects of applying conservation practices on all resources in order to assist the client in selecting the best combination of practices to solve an identified problem. By considering all likely effects, the decisionmaker can make an informed decision.

**Conservation Practice Physical Effects Worksheets**

Section V, Subsection A, contains the **Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)** worksheets. These are matrices that provide general guidance concerning how each conservation practice will affect the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA) resources, and associated social, economic, and cultural considerations. The CPPE worksheets reflect the best estimate of the effects, either positive or negative, of each practice on identified resource concerns.

The effects shown in these matrices were developed nationally and apply on a very broad, general level. These effects should be viewed as a good starting point for understanding the effects of a conservation practice. They cannot replace firsthand experience gained from observing how well conservation practices work in the field.

When formulating conservation management systems, a planner must understand that a single practice can affect different resources in either positive or negative ways. The CPPE worksheets are intended to display the effects that conservation practices, when implemented, will have not only on the target problem but also on all other resource concerns. A conservation practice can have a positive effect on one resource concern (i.e., it may solve an identified problem), but it may have a negative, sometimes unanticipated, effect on one or more other resource concerns. Also, one practice used alone may not be sufficient to solve an identified problem.

The national CPPE worksheets are periodically updated as better information becomes known.

**Effects of Resource Management Systems**

Section V, Subsection B, describes the effects of **Resource Management Systems (RMS)** on the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA) resources and their associated social, economic, and cultural considerations. For each example RMS in this section, effects are displayed for the resource problems or concerns that were previously identified for each example in Section III-C-2 of the FOTG.